TENANT NEWSLETTER WINTER 2017



HOUSING AUTHORITY of the City of Long Beach

Increased Payment Standards Assist Participants with Housing



The Housing Authority of the City Beach establishes of Long Payment Standards based on Fair Market Rents (FMR), which are established annually by HUD. The Standard Payment is maximum subsidy HACLB can pay on behalf of the family for rent. As of November 2017, the payment standards have increased. By increasing the payment standards, the intent is to improve the success rate for voucher holders looking to secure housing, helping while also existing participants to remain housed in their units.

Below is a list of some of the payment standards for Fiscal Year 2018 (October 1, 2017- September 30, 2018). For more information regarding payment standards for

3 or more units please visit our website at www.haclb.org.

	0 Bdrm	1 Bdrm	2 Bdrm
90802	\$1,243	\$1,496	\$1,936
90803	\$1,540	\$1,859	\$2,398
90804	\$1,199	\$1,441	\$1,870
90805	\$1,144	\$1,364	\$1,771
90806	\$1,155	\$1,386	\$1,804
90807	\$1,265	\$1,529	\$1,980
90808	\$1,375	\$1,650	\$2,134
90809	\$1,177	\$1,408	\$1,826
90810	\$1,001	\$1,199	\$1,551
90813	\$1,111	\$1,331	\$1,727
90814	\$1,232	\$1,474	\$1,914
90815	\$1,441	\$1,738	\$2,244

FAQ's



Who do I contact if I am facing discrimination from an owner or landlord?

The Housing Authority is not able to help directly with these issues and it would be best to contact the Fair Housing Foundation for these issues. They have lawyers on hand that can assist you and they can let you know your full rights and responsibilities as a tenant. You can contact them at:

(562) 989-1206

Who do I contact about disagreements about security deposits, pet deposits or any other legal issues?

The Fair Housing Foundation is a great resource to keep in mind as well as the Legal Aid Foundation

of Los Angeles (LAFLA)which has lawyers available for low-income people. You can contact LAFLA at: (800) 399-4529

It is important to remember that your lease is between the tenant and the landlord, the Housing Authority is not part of that lease and should not be considered in responsibilities other than getting the Housing Authority portion of to the rent owner. vour Remember that tenants with good behavior and personal responsibility encourage owners to continue working with Section 8 participants. Sometimes it just takes one bad situation to deter owners from accepting Section 8 participants.

A Golden Opportunity to Help You Reach Your Goals: The Family Self-Sufficiency Program



Are you ready to make a positive change in your life?

Do you desire financial independence?

Would you like to pursue that dream job?

If your answer is "Yes" to any of the above questions, the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) is TENANT NEWSLETTER WINTER 2017

just right for you. The FSS Program is a voluntary program designed to help you improve your financial situation. When enrolling in the program, we ask that you identify a few goals that you wild like to accomplish over the next 5 years. Then we provide you with referrals and resources that you need to help you reach your goals.

In addition to helping you reach your goals, the FSS Program puts money into an escrow savings account for you. Once you reach the end of the 5-Year plan, and you accomplish your goals that have been established, the money in your escrow account is awarded to you to use however you see fit. Those who have completed the program have chosen to do some of the following:

Purchase a new home

Start a business

Pay off debt

Attend college

The only requirement to joining the FSS Program is that you are an HCV participant with the Housing Authority of the City of Long Beach who is currently housed. Join the program today so that you can become a part of this successful program.

This could be you!



Ms. Nekeita Williams is one of the 444 participants who graduated from the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program. The FSS Program has distributed a total of more than \$3.5 million to the 444 program graduates.

An FSS Participant Testimony

"I wasn't doing anything with my life before I joined the FSS program. I was stuck. After I joined the program I was motivated to get my medical billing certificate. Now I have a good paying job doing medical billing." - Lizette Aleman, FSS Graduate 2017

For more information, contact FSS Workers:

Terra Louis at: 562.570.6145 / terra.louis@longbeach.gov

Nadith Schuster at: 562.570.6697 / nadith.schuster@longbeach.gov

The Homeless Incentive Program (HIP) May Help You



At the HACLB we recognize that it is difficult for applicants and participants to locate and secure suitable housing. To assist with your efforts, we are always seeking out resources that can

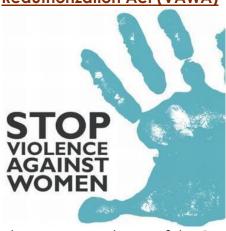
help you. With this in mind, we are excited to share with you that our agency is one of many in Los Angeles County that will be receiving funds through the Los Angeles County's recently passed Measure H funding, which aims to support persons experiencing homelessness. This will provide move in costs for qualified participants, as well as essential items needed when moving into a unit that are not provided by landlords, such as refrigerators, stoves, beds, etc.

The intent of the program is to provide additional resources to assist those in search of housing, while also encouraging landlord acceptance of subsidized tenants who have been issued vouchers by HACLB. The HIP will also benefit landlords by allowing for holding fees to secure available units for homeless individuals and families who are determined eligible for housing, as well as to mitigate damages by tenants during their occupancy in subsidized units.

Please stay tuned for more information regarding the implementation of this program. As updates are provided, we will be including additional information on our website, which can be accessed by logging onto www.haclb.org.

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<u>Violence Against Women</u> Reauthorization Act (VAWA)



The Housing Authority of the City of Long Beach (HACLB) updated policies and forms to assist individuals who may be at risk of losing their housing and/or assistance due to domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault. VAWA defenses are available regardless of sex, gender identity or sexual orientation.

If you otherwise qualify for HACLB's housing program, you cannot be denied admission or assistance because you are or have been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

The following important forms are included with this newsletter:

- Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act; and
- Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking and Alternate Documentation

If you are a victim of domestic violence and need emergency assistance call 911. If you are not subject to immediate harm, but need assistance, contact:

- Long Beach Multi-Service Ctr (562) 570-4500
- Interval House Hotline, (562) 594-4555

For addition information or questions regarding this VAWA policy, contact HACLB at (562) 570-6985.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Fair Housing Foundation – (562) 989-1206

Tenant Rights Workshop: Learn your rights and responsibilities as a tenant and how to protect yourself from discrimination and unfair practices.

January 22nd, 24th and 31st

To RSVP to an event, visit http://www.fairhousingfoundation.com/1/2018/calendar.html and select the event from the calendar, fill out the information and your RSVP will be confirmed. These events are held free of cost.

*Please be reminded that the Housing Authority will be closed on December 25th and January 1st

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Bureau Manager

Alison King 570-6153

Special Projects Officer

Kieshia Nathaniel 570-6616

Housing Operations Program

Officer

Nida Watkins 570-6011

Inspections Coordinator

Saulo Amezquita 570-5301

Occupancy Coordinator

Joi Dailey 570-6365

Intake Coordinator

Mechell Roberts 570-6285

Program Integrity Coordinator

Gerlanda Larry 570-6089

Inspections Scheduler

Sophy Choy 570-5303

Rent Reasonableness

Debbi Brown 570-5307

Move Specialist

Xochitl Ortega 570-6409

Ownership Specialist

Sergio Navarro Jr. 570-6897

Family Self Sufficiency Lead

Sundaram Rama 570-5485

